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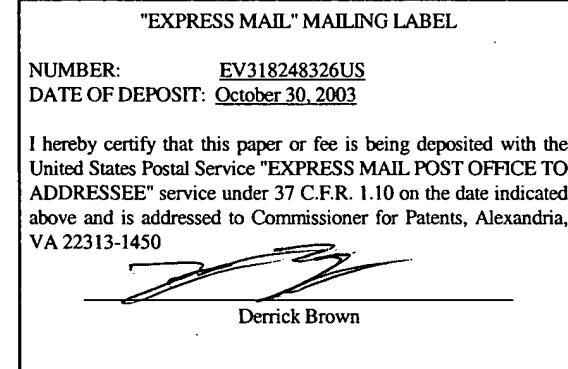
PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS & UNFAIR COMPETITION

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FILE: 5259-10801

October 30, 2003



MS PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application Entitled "**SPINAL STABILIZATION SYSTEM USING FLEXIBLE MEMBERS**" -- Landry et al., 5259-10800US01

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a disclosure including a title page, a 25 page specification, 10 pages of claims (Claims 1-70), and a one page abstract. In addition, we have also included drawings on 19 sheets (figures 1-27C). The disclosure and drawings constitute the application of Michael E. Landry and Larry T. Khoo for the above-entitled invention.

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/422,453 entitled "Spinal Stabilization System Using Flexible Members," filed October 30, 2002. The above-referenced provisional application is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

10/698046
U.S. PTO



Commissioner for Patents
October 30, 2003
Page 2

Please note that this application is filed without an inventor Declaration and filing fees. Applicant requests the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicant requests that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED be sent to the undersigned Applicant representative.

Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to customer number 35690:

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Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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EBM:jlp
Enclosures